



**King County
Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee**

The Honorable Larry Gossett, Chair
Metropolitan King County Council
516 Third Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle WA 98104

January 31, 2007

Dear Chair Gossett:

On behalf of the members of the Citizens' Election Oversight Committee I am pleased to transmit this "Annual Report on King County Elections – February 2007".

The mission you assigned us is "...to help King County restore and maintain public confidence in elections." (Ordinance 15453) This Citizens' Election Oversight Committee recognizes and builds on the good work of previous committees, the work of the Council and the work of the Executive and elections staff in making good progress on this mission. We believe all parties recognize that while good and consistent progress is being made, we cannot rest. It will be a challenge to maintain the high performance standards required to conduct elections while significant changes are on the horizon. Three big changes will occur in the not-too-distant future include acquiring new high-speed ballot processing equipment, acquiring or building a consolidated elections facility and moving to vote-by-mail elections. It is our plan to help you oversee these changes while observing and reporting on the conduct of elections.

We commend the County Council for its leadership and foresight in addressing elections issues. We look forward to serving you and the voters of King County in 2007.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hansen, Chair, King County Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee

cc: Metropolitan King County Councilmembers
Ron Sims, Executive, King County
Paul Tanaka, Director, Department of Executive Services,
Jim Buck, Interim Director, REALS, DES
Members, Citizens' Election Oversight Committee